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SOURCE Bakinskiy Rabochiy.

NEW HERMETIZATION METHOD BOOSTS AZERBAIDZHAN PETROLEUM PRODUCTION

One of the most important measures carried out in postwar years is oil field hermetization. Eliminating losses of petroleum and gas, it creates favorable conditions for preserving and recovering the light-fraction content of petroleum and gas.

Azerbaijdzhan has been making a constant struggle against losses of petroleum and gas. The effects of measures which have been taken are well known. However, the former hermetization method could not provide the solution for the complicated technical tasks facing oil field workers in the gathering, transporting, and storage of petroleum and gas.

The chief defect in the old hermetization method was that the operation of the oil well was not connected with the work of the aggregates for gathering and transportation petroleum and gas. Serious defects existed in exploitation. In addition to the fact that losses in petroleum and gas were not eliminated by the old method, the oil field equipment was not utilized to capacity.

A deep and all-around study of the problem of coping with losses in oil fields showed that it was impossible to eliminate the essential defects in the old hermetization method without the introduction of radical changes into it. From 1947 on, therefore, work was done in the Azneft' Association oil fields on a new hermetization method to be used in the gathering, storing, and transporting of petroleum and gas.

Worked out on the basis of the most modern achievements of the USSR techniques and the technology of petroleum extraction, this method embraces the entire range of questions connected with the better utilization of oil field equipment, liquidation of losses of petroleum, gasoline, and gas, and the improved productivity of compressor stations.

The basis of the new system consists in regulations, introduced for the first time in petroleum science and practice, on the exploitation of all wells, with increased pressure at the mouth of the well and without lowering the flow. The new system also includes regulations on gathering the products of the wells for the general pipelines.

- 1 -

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The problem has now been successfully solved and the engineers who worked out the new system have been awarded Stalin Prizes.

Results of the new method indicate that the petroleum output has increased 5-6 percent above the former level. An increase in the potential gasoline content in the petroleum was also achieved and, by a curtailment in losses and an improvement in transport of gas, the Azneft' Association attained a 20-percent increase in its gas output. The precipitation of salts and paraffin in pipelines decreased considerably and the clogging up of the gathering system with sand and mud was stopped. The oil fields took on a cleaner aspect and petroleum did not collect in pools as formerly.

The new system made it possible for the oil field workers to check on the flow of petroleum not only for 24 hours but for a shift. This helped introduce a shift-by-shift accounting of the petroleum output and improved planning the work of the brigades. Servicing of oil field installations for gathering and repumping petroleum became far easier; as a result, many workers were freed.

In many USSR petroleum regions compressor extraction of petroleum is only carried out with the aid of gaslift, in view of the number of advantages this method has over an airlift. The gaslift with the new method of hermetization raised the productivity of the compressors one and a half to two times. About 35 percent of electric power can be saved in oil fields of the Azneft' Association alone in the production of compressed gas.

The new method of hermetization is very convenient for off-shore oil fields. On the one hand, it is unnecessary to build cumbersome structures in the open sea, and, on the other, requirements in equipment are sharply reduced since the productivity of the compressors is increased.

In spite of achievements, much remains to be done to attain complete hermetization in the gathering, storing, and transport of petroleum. It is necessary to speed up the construction of hermetization installations in oil fields No 2, 4, and 6 of the Molotovneft' Trust and in oil fields No 4 and 6 of the Kirovneft' Trust. The Stalinneft' Trust also has failed to adopt the new method in all parts of all its oil fields.

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- 2 -

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